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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN EU PRESIDENCY ISSUES DECLARATION
WELCOMING IRAQI GOVERNMENT FORMATION

REF: STATE 81632

This message is Sensitive but Unclassified.

11. (SBU) The Government of Austria, in its capacity as President of the European Union, issued a declaration on May 22 welcoming the formation of the new Iraqi government. The Austrian EU Presidency said it saw the process as the completion of the political transition in Iraq.

12. (U) Text of the declaration follows:

The European Union warmly welcomes the formation of an Iraqi government of national unity following the elections of 15 December 2005. This completes the political transition process in Iraq, as foreseen in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1546 and 1637.

The European Union firmly believes that the formation of this government of national unity and a swift subsequent confirmation of the ministers of interior and defence will contribute significantly to the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq in a spirit of reconciliation by promoting inclusiveness and anti-sectarian policies. This will represent another important step towards national consensus and will contribute to the stabilisation of the country and its further integration into the international community.

The European Union conveys to the newly formed government its best wishes for success in view of the challenges ahead. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to assist in building an independent, secure, stable, unified, democratic and prosperous Iraq.

McCaw